THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) All transmission lines and sub-stations, alongwith associated facilities and supporting equipment of power utilities in the Central Sector will be taken over by the National Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (NPTC) in a phased manner.

(b) The National Power Transmission Corporation will be responsible for operation, maintenance and construction of all transmission systems and associated sub-stations in the Central Sector, but in close co-ordination with State Electricity Boards so that large blocks of power could ultimately be moved from various generating sources under the Central Sector to the load centres within the region, as well as across the regions, with reliability, security and economy.

Accident at Dudhichua Coal Project

*32. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a disastrous accident had taken place at Dudhichua project of Northern Coalfields Limited in Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh in June, 1991; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) An accident occurred on 8-6-91 in the Coal Handling Plant being constructed by a Contractor at Dudhichua Project of Northern Coalfields Limited. Heavy downpour 155.8 mm resulted in the collapse of the tunnel under construction. Seven workers of the contractor got trapped in the tunnel and died. Torrential rains coupled with break-down in power supply hindered the speed of dewatering operations. Three dead bodies were recovered on 10-6-91, three on 13-6-91 and one on 14-6-91. Besides these, three persons were injured, out of whom, two were treated in the NCL hospital while the third only required first-aid.

Decline in visits by foreign tourists

*33. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of foreign tourists that arrived in the country during the last three years, till date;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned through these foreign tourists during the said period;

(c) whether it is a fact that the deteriorating law and order situation in some States has led to a decline in foreign tourist arrivals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what urgent steps Government propose to take to increase the number of foreign tourists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The number of foreign tourists, including the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh who visited India and the estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the last three years are as given below:

Year	Tourist Arrivals	Estimated foreign exchange earnings (Rs. in Crores)
1988-89 . .	1,619,298	2,103
1989-90 . .	1,765,079	2,456
1990-91 . .	1,613,681	2,444

(c) and (d) There has been a decline of about 8.6 per cent in tourist arrivals during 1990-91 due to law and order problems and international situation.

(e) Steps have been taken to remove the feeling of insecurity from the minds of prospective tourists through diplomatic channels and publicity in the overseas markets.

Failure of Eastern Power Grid

*34. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Power Grid collapsed on the 2nd July 1991, affecting normal life in Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) if so, what were the reasons therefor and the extent of damage caused;

(c) whether lessons were drawn from similar crisis of June last year; and

(d) if so, whether any contingency plan was devised then and enforced this time and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) A major disturbance occurred in the Eastern Regional Power Grid in the morning of 2nd July, 1991 affecting power supply in Bihar and West Bengal.

(b) The main reasons for the disturbance was tripping of the 400 KV Farakka—Malda Transmission Line, resulting in cascade tripping of all the generating units in Bihar Electricity Board, Damodar Valley Corporation, West Bengal Electricity Board, two running units at Farakka Super Thermal Station of NTPC and all the four units at Chukha HEP in Bhutan.

(c) On 25th/26th June, 1990, a grid disturbance had taken place in the Eastern Region which was due to imbalance between load and availability and inadequate generation. The lesson drawn was that low frequency operation of the grid should be avoided.

(d) After a detailed review, the Eastern Regional Electricity Board decided that the operating frequency should be above 49.5 Hz, which might go down to a frequency of 49 Hz, during peak period. The Regional Board also decided that no constituent should normally overdraw Only in case of sudden outage of units, overdrawal upto 15-20 minutes might be accommodated. This was generally being followed prior to the occurrence of the disturbance on 2nd July, 1991.

A technical committee headed by Member, Central Electricity Authority with representatives of all the constituents has been constituted to study the event and suggest improvements to the eastern grid as well as necessary changes in operating procedures.

आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के लिये विद्युत उत्पादन का लक्ष्य

*35. सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा: क्या विद्युत और गैर-पारम्परिक ऊर्जा स्रोत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 4 मार्च, 1991 के "इंडियन एक्सप्रेस" में "एफ० आई० सी० सी० आई० बार्नस ऑफ पॉवर डेफीसिट इन एट्थ प्लान" शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजनावधि के दौरान विद्युत उत्पादन का लक्ष्य पहले 38,000 मेगावॉट निर्धारित किया